

REMARKS

Claims 4, 6, 13, 14, 17, 21-25, 30, 31, 35, 36, 40, 41, 44 and 61-64 are pending, with claims 17, 21-25 and 61-64 being independent. Claims 17, 21-25 and 61-64 have been amended. In particular, each of claims 17 and 21-25 has been amended to recite that at least one of a portion of the TFT substrate over which the control circuit chip is provided and a portion of the counter substrate adjacent to the control circuit is made thinner than other portions of the TFT substrate and the counter substrate, as set forth in the application at page 9, line 28, to page 10, line 12. Claims 61-64 have been amended to recite that the nonconductive material (or the weakly conductive material) covers part of the bus line, as shown in Fig. 1. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 4, 6, 13, 14, 17, 21-25, 30, 31, 35, 36, 40, 41 and 44 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Sawatsubashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,148,301). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Sawatsubashi does not describe or suggest making at least one of a portion of the TFT substrate over which the control circuit chip is provided and a portion of the counter substrate adjacent to the control circuit thinner than other portions of the TFT substrate and the counter substrate, as recited in each of independent claims 17 and 21-25.

Claims 61-64 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Kamoi (JP 61029821A). As noted above, claims 61-64 have been amended to recite that the nonconductive material (or the weakly conductive material) covers part of the bus line, as shown in Fig. 1. As noted in the application at page 5, lines 6-12, this arrangement, by preventing the cut end surfaces from touching the outside, shields the bus line connected with the pixel TFTs from the outside, which protects the pixel TFTs from static charges. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither the APA, Kamoi, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests this aspect of the claims.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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No fees are believed due. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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